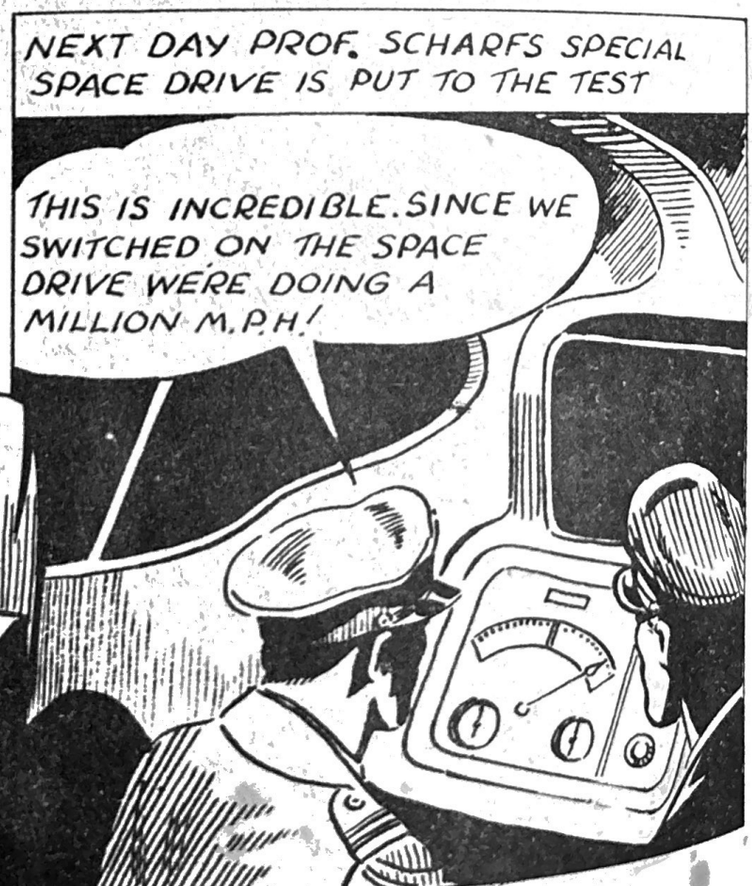
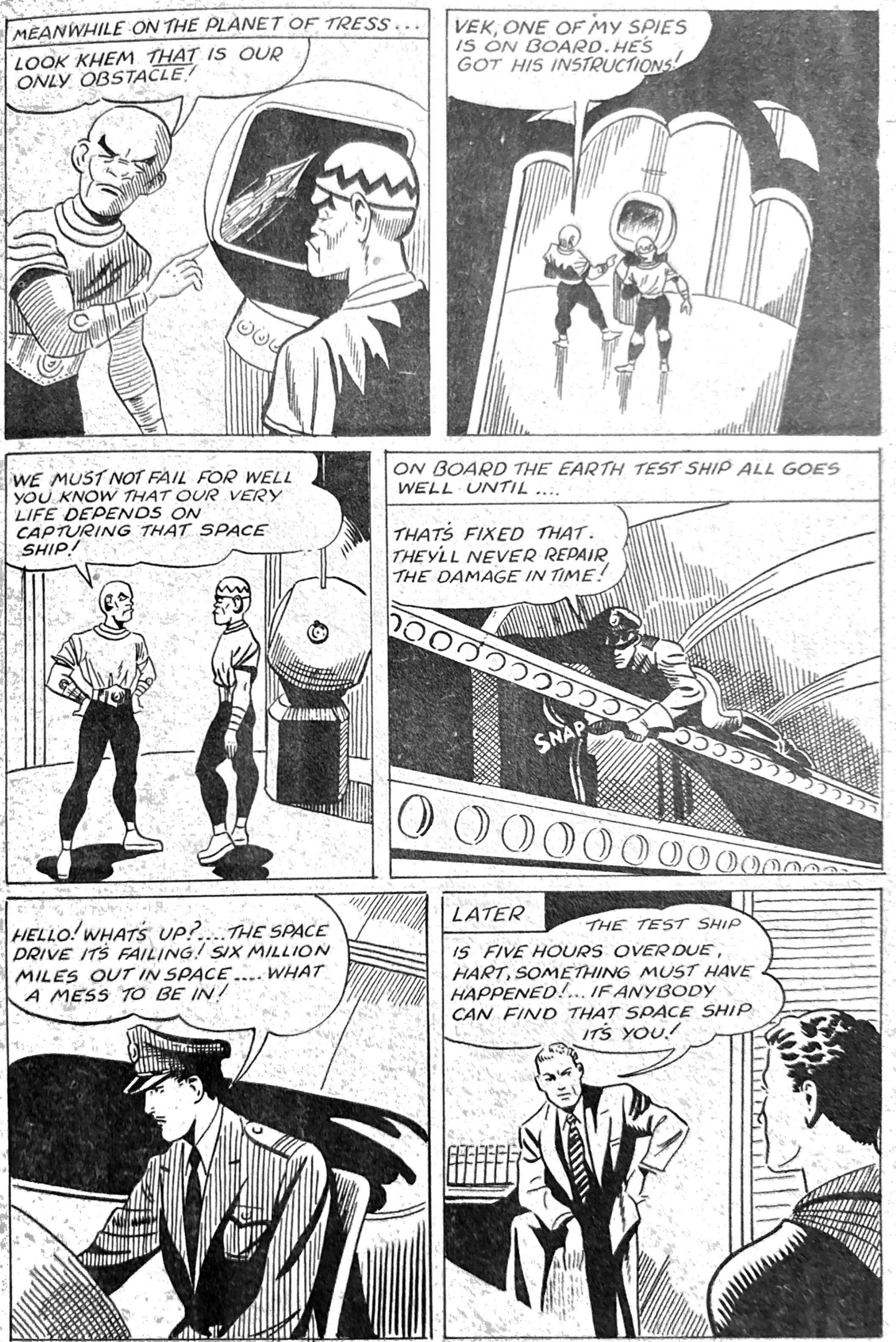
WDL
SUPER THRILLER
NO 18
COMIC
ACE HART the ATOM MAN
6d

ACE HART

IN SPACE SPEED

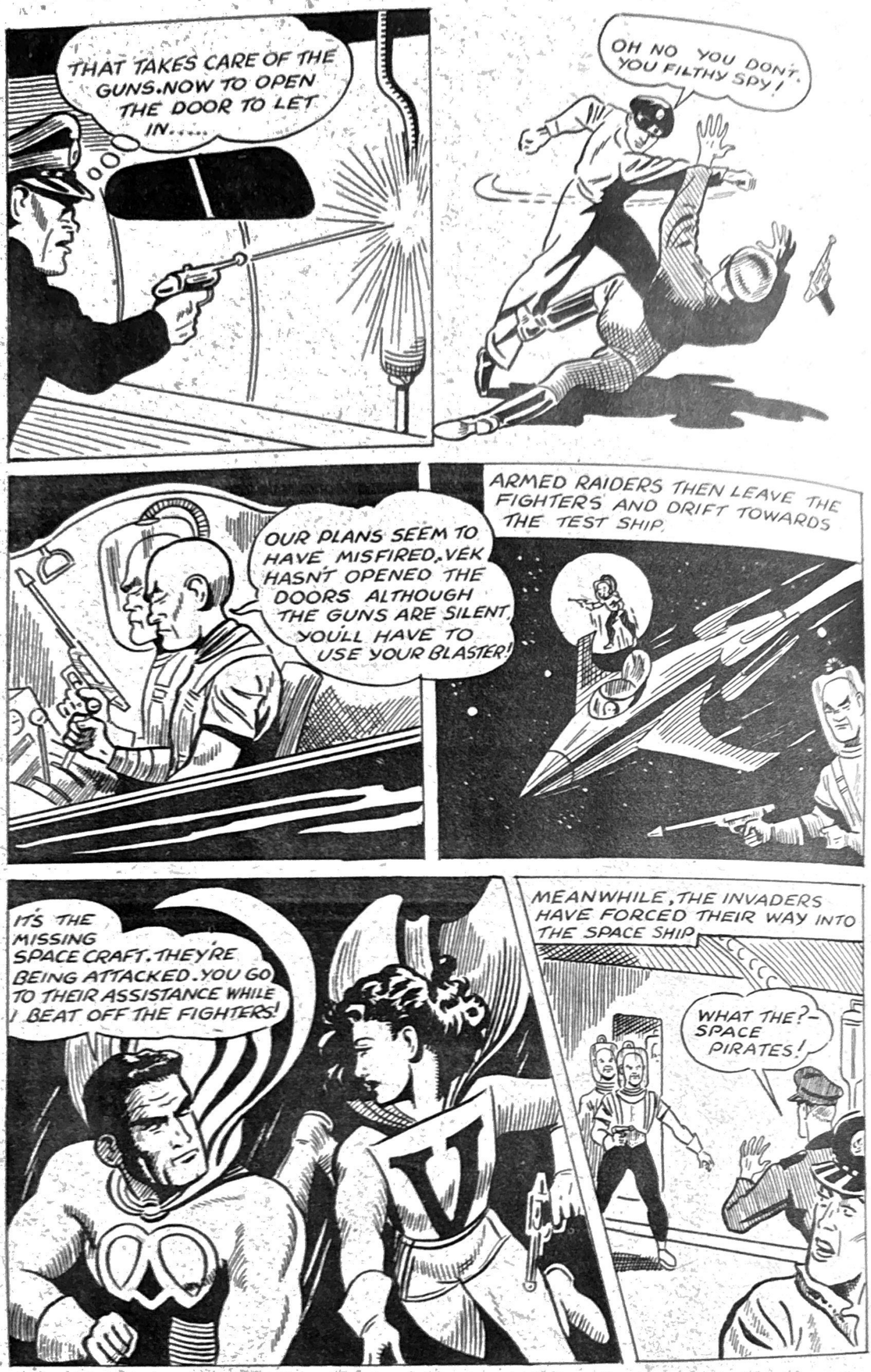
YOU MEAN TO TELL US THAT THIS CONTRAPTION OF YOURS WILL BOOST SPACE SPEED FROM THE PRESENT TWO THOUSAND M.P.H. TO A MILLION MILES AN HOUR!
THATS WHAT I SAID GENTLEMEN, ILL PROVE IT IN TOMORROWS TEST!


NEXT DAY PROF. SCHARFS SPECIAL SPACE DRIVE IS PUT TO THE TEST
THIS IS INCREDIBLE. SINCE WE SWITCHED ON THE SPACE DRIVE WERE DOING A MILLION M.P.H!

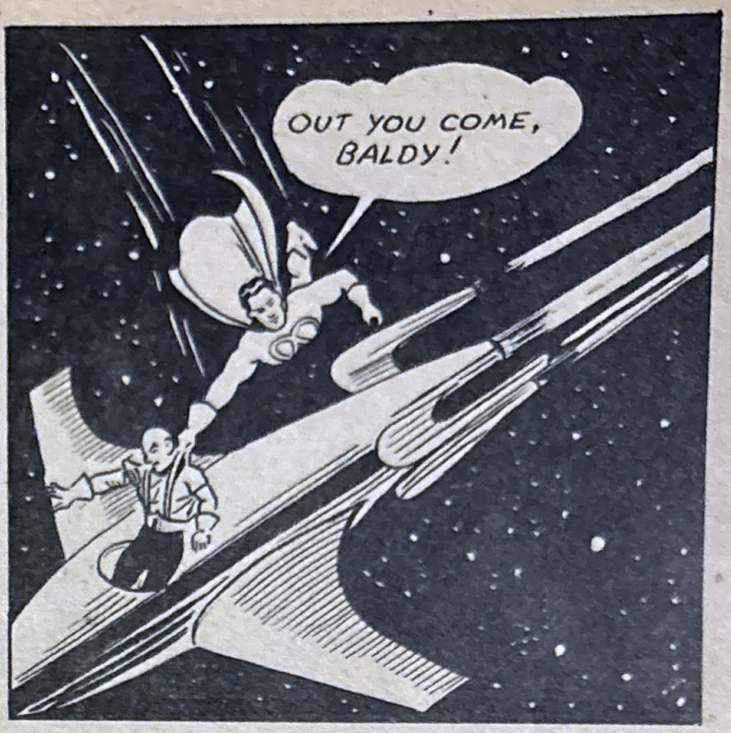

MEANWHILE ON THE PLANET OF TRESS...
LOOK KHEM THAT IS OUR ONLY OBSTACLE!
VEK, ONE OF MY SPIES IS ON BOARD. HE'S GOT HIS INSTRUCTIONS!
WE MUST NOT FAIL FOR WELL YOU KNOW THAT OUR VERY LIFE DEPENDS ON CAPTURING THAT SPACE SHIP!
ON BOARD THE EARTH TEST SHIP ALL GOES WELL UNTIL ....
THAT'S FIXED THAT. THEY'LL NEVER REPAIR THE DAMAGE IN TIME!
SNAP
HELLO! WHAT'S UP?.... THE SPACE DRIVE IT'S FAILING! SIX MILLION MILES OUT IN SPACE.... WHAT A MESS TO BE IN!
LATER
THE TEST SHIP IS FIVE HOURS OVER DUE, HART, SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED!... IF ANYBODY CAN FIND THAT SPACE SHIP IT'S YOU!

EXCUSE ME SIR! WORD HAS JUST COME THROUGH THAT A MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE TEST SHIP, THE SPACE DRIVE HAS FAILED COMPLETELY AND THE TROUBLE NOT YET LOCATED!
ACE HART AND HIS ASSISTANT VAL DON'T WASTE ANY TIME IN SEARCHING FOR THE MISSING SHIP
IF WE DONT FIND THEM, VAL, THEY COULD DRIFT THROUGH SPACE FOR EVER. THEY WOULD STARVE TO DEATH, THAT IS IF THEY DIDN'T KILL EACH OTHER FIRST!
MEANWHILE VEK IS DOING HIS BEST TO STIR UP TROUBLE WITH THE CREW.
HUMAN GUINEA PIGS, THAT'S WHAT WE ARE. THEY SHOULDNT HAVE TRUSTED THAT OLD FOOL PROF. SCHARF!
YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT. I HAVE A WIFE AND CHILD DEPENDING ON ME!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR THEN? ON MEN TO THE ARMOURY!
WE'LL TAKE POSSESSION OF THE FOOD BY FORCE!
TO GET TO THE ARMOURY THE MEN MUST PASS THROUGH THE CONTROL ROOM.
THE COMMANDER!
WHAT ON EARTH? GET OUT OF THIS CONTROL ROOM AND BACK TO YOUR POSTS AT ONCE!
JUST THEN A MESSAGE COMES THROUGH FROM ONE OF THE GUNNERS.
THREE UNIDENTIFIED SPACE FIGHTERS APPROACHING SIR! THEY DO NOT ANSWER MY SIGNAL, PLEASE ADVISE!

ONE HAS FIRED AND JUST MISSED US SIR!
LET THEM HAVE IT!
THAT'S NUMBER ONE!
VEK HEARING THE COMMANDERS ORDER TO FIRE, SNATCHES UP A RAY PISTOL AND AIMS IT AT HIM
STOP! YOU FOOL... YOULL!....
AH!
TAKE THAT EARTHLING! NOW I'LL BLAST THE ATOM POWER FEED LEADING TO THE GUNS!
MEANWHILE
LOOK VAL! ATOM GUN FLASHES OR I'M A DUTCHMAN!


THAT TAKES CARE OF THE GUNS. NOW TO OPEN THE DOOR TO LET IN.....
OH NO YOU DON'T, YOU FILTHY SPY!
OUR PLANS SEEM TO HAVE MISFIRED. VEK HASN'T OPENED THE DOORS ALTHOUGH THE GUNS ARE SILENT, YOU'LL HAVE TO USE YOUR BLASTER!
ARMED RAIDERS THEN LEAVE THE FIGHTERS AND DRIFT TOWARDS THE TEST SHIP.
IT'S THE MISSING SPACE CRAFT. THEY'RE BEING ATTACKED. YOU GO TO THEIR ASSISTANCE WHILE I BEAT OFF THE FIGHTERS!
MEANWHILE, THE INVADERS HAVE FORCED THEIR WAY INTO THE SPACE SHIP
WHAT THE?- SPACE PIRATES!

ONE OF THE FIGHTERS SPOTS ACE AND SWOOPS DOWN-GUNS BLAZING.



AS ACE BATTLES WITH THE FIGHTERS, VAL ENTERS CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE TEST SHIP.

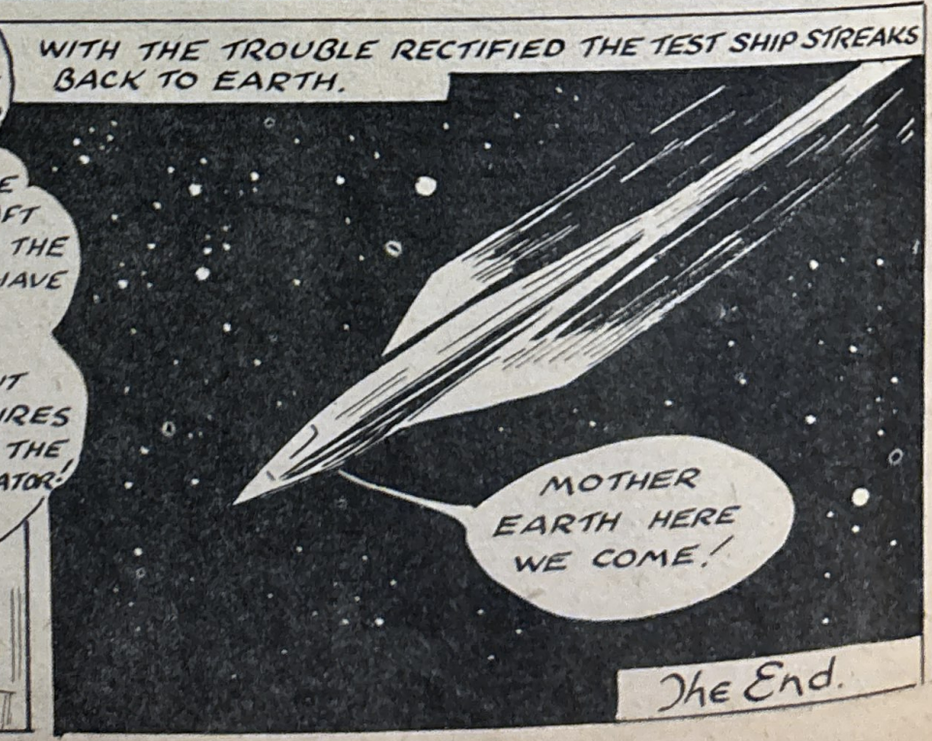
WITH THE APPEARANCE OF VAL THE SPACE CREW FIGHT BACK AT THE PIRATES.

WE'RE MIGHTY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP, HART, BUT WE ARE NOT OUT OF THE WOOD YET, IF WE DON'T GET THAT SPACE DRIVE MENDED WE'RE...
GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES WITH THIS SPY YOU SAY YOU HAVE ON BOARD! I HAVE A HUNCH HE'LL TELL ME WHAT IS WRONG!

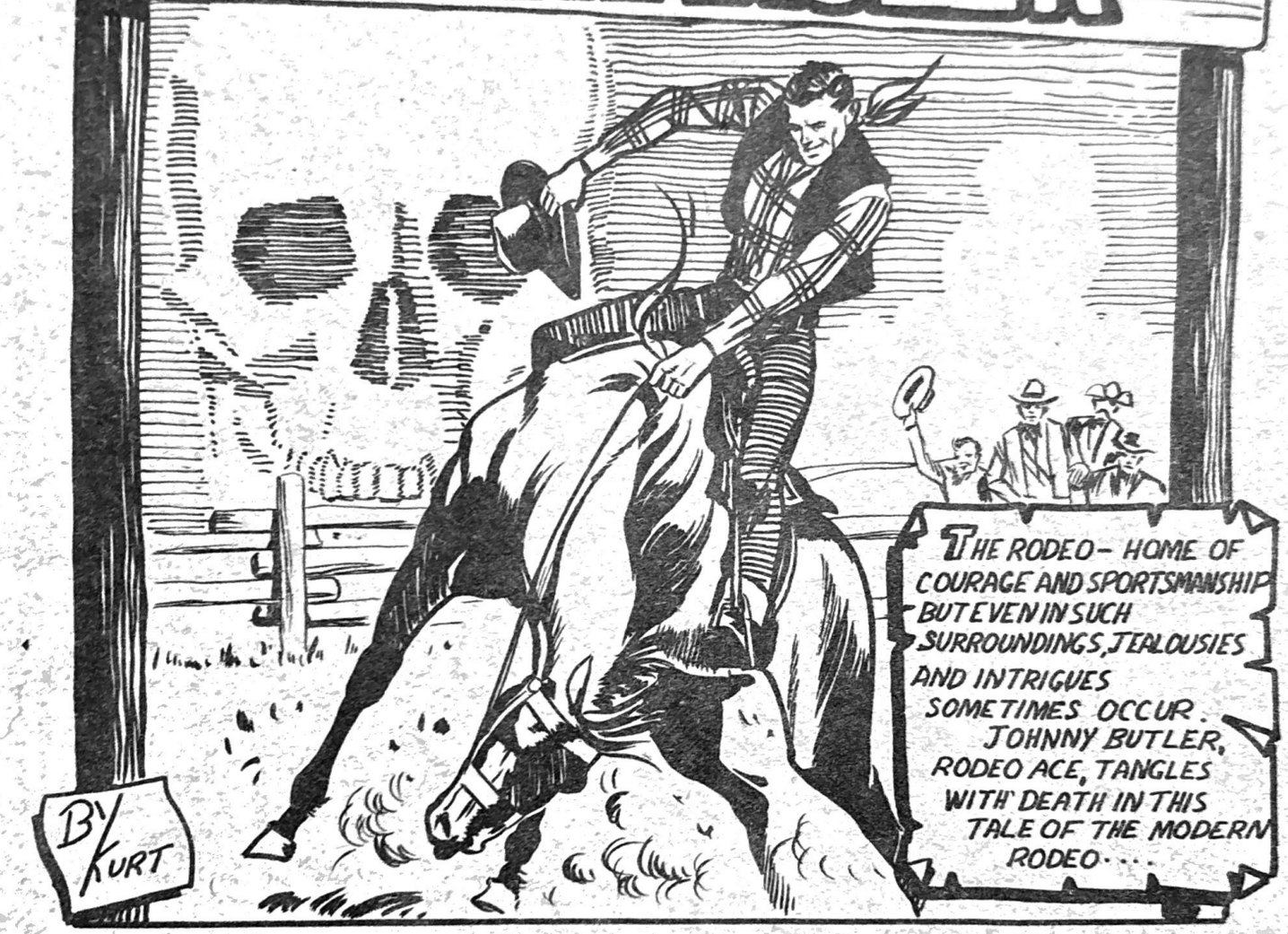
ACE IS TAKEN TO THE CAPTURED SPY
THOSE EYES THEY'RE BURNING INTO MY BRAIN. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!

IT ALL STARTED WHEN OUR PLANET BEGAN TO LOSE ITS ATMOSPHERE. SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE QUICKLY SO IT WAS DECIDED TO CAPTURE YOUR EARTH, AND----

TAKE OVER. THIS COULD ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY CAPTURING YOUR TEST SHIP IT BEING THE FASTEST SPACE CRAFT IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE. WITH SUCH A CRAFT IN OUR POSSESSION THE EARTH WOULD HAVE BEEN AT OUR MERCY. ALL I DID WAS TO CUT THE CONE WIRES LEADING TO THE MAIN GENERATOR!

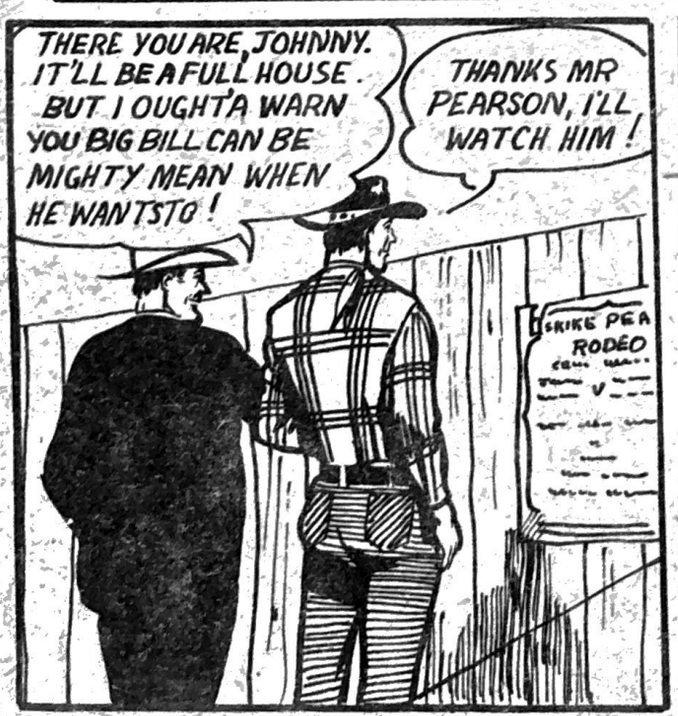

WITH THE TROUBLE RECTIFIED THE TEST SHIP STREAKS BACK TO EARTH.
MOTHER EARTH HERE WE COME!
The End.

RODEO WRANGLER



BY KURT

THE RODEO - HOME OF COURAGE AND SPORTSMANSHIP BUT EVEN IN SUCH SURROUNDINGS, JEALOUSIES AND INTRIGUES SOMETIMES OCCUR. JOHNNY BUTLER, RODEO ACE, TANGLES WITH DEATH IN THIS TALE OF THE MODERN RODEO...


THERE YOU ARE, JOHNNY. IT'LL BE A FULL HOUSE. BUT I OUGHT'A WARN YOU BIG BILL CAN BE MIGHTY MEAN WHEN HE WANTS TO!
THANKS MR PEARSON, I'LL WATCH HIM!
SPIKE PEA
RODEO
V

C'MON JOHN, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU. THAT'S HER THERE, KNOCKING DOWN NAIL HEADS AT 50 PACES!
'WOW'- SHE SURE CAN SHOOT, LOOKS KINDA PURTY TOO!
JOHNNY, MEET PATSY. PATSY THIS IS JOHNNY BUTLER. THE ROUGHEST RIDER ONE'S EVER SEEN!
HOWDY MA'AM!
HOWDY JOHNNY. I HOPE YOU BEAT THAT BRAGGIN' BILL BOWERS, AND PLEASE CALL ME PATSY!
BUT THERE IS AN UNWELCOME INTERRUPTION..
WAL, I'LL SURE DO MY BEST MA'AM, ER-ER PATSY!
--HE COULDN'T BEAT AN EGG!
LISTEN RUNT, I AIM TO WIN THAT THERE CONTEST AND I DON'T CARE MUCH HOW I DO IT!
SURE, YOU'LL WIN, IF YOU STICK TO YOUR SADDLE LONGER THAN I DO!
NOW LOOK HERE, BOWERS, ANY MORE OF THIS SORT'A TALK, AND YOU'LL BE WASHED UP FROM ANY OF MY RODEO SHOWS!

BOWERS LEAVES BAD TEMPERED
..AND I'LL FIX THAT DAME TOO..
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT HOMBRE!
SCRAM!!
PATSY RESUMES TARGET PRACTICE..
SO LONG, MISS PATSY!
MEANWHILE....
I'LL TEACH THAT CHEEKY FEMALE..
SPEARPOINT—THE PRIDE OF THE PRAIRIES
—KEEP OUT—
AND SUDDENLY.....
SPEARPOINT IS FREE.....
SPEARPOINT!!

PATSY FIRES..
FINE TIME TO RUN OUT OF AMMO !
CLICK!
ON AN EMPTY CHAMBER--
EEEEK!
THAT WAS PATSY---- MY GOD-- THE BULL'S LOOSE!!
RUN PATSY!! I'LL GET THAT BEAST!
C'MON, YOU ORNERY LUMP OF COWHIDE!!
DOWN GOES SPEARPOINT--

I GUESS I OWE YOU MY LIFE, JOHNNY

ANYTHING TO OBLIGE A LADY, BUT I CAN'T HELP A WONDERING HOW THAT BEASTLY BULL GOT OUT'A HIS BOX!

THAT EVENING

THE RODEO BEGINS . . .

JOHNNY FORGES AHEAD IN ROPING . . .

'RAY FOR BUTLER!!

BULL RIDING . . . .

BUTLER WINS AGAIN!!

AND SHOOTING.

WHAT A SHOT!!

ZING

BUT BILL BEGINS TO GET WORRIED . .

CURSE THAT BUTLER, HE'S GOTTEN HIMSELF SO MANY POINTS I JUST CAN'T WIN—BUT I'LL FIX HIM, PERMANENTLY!!

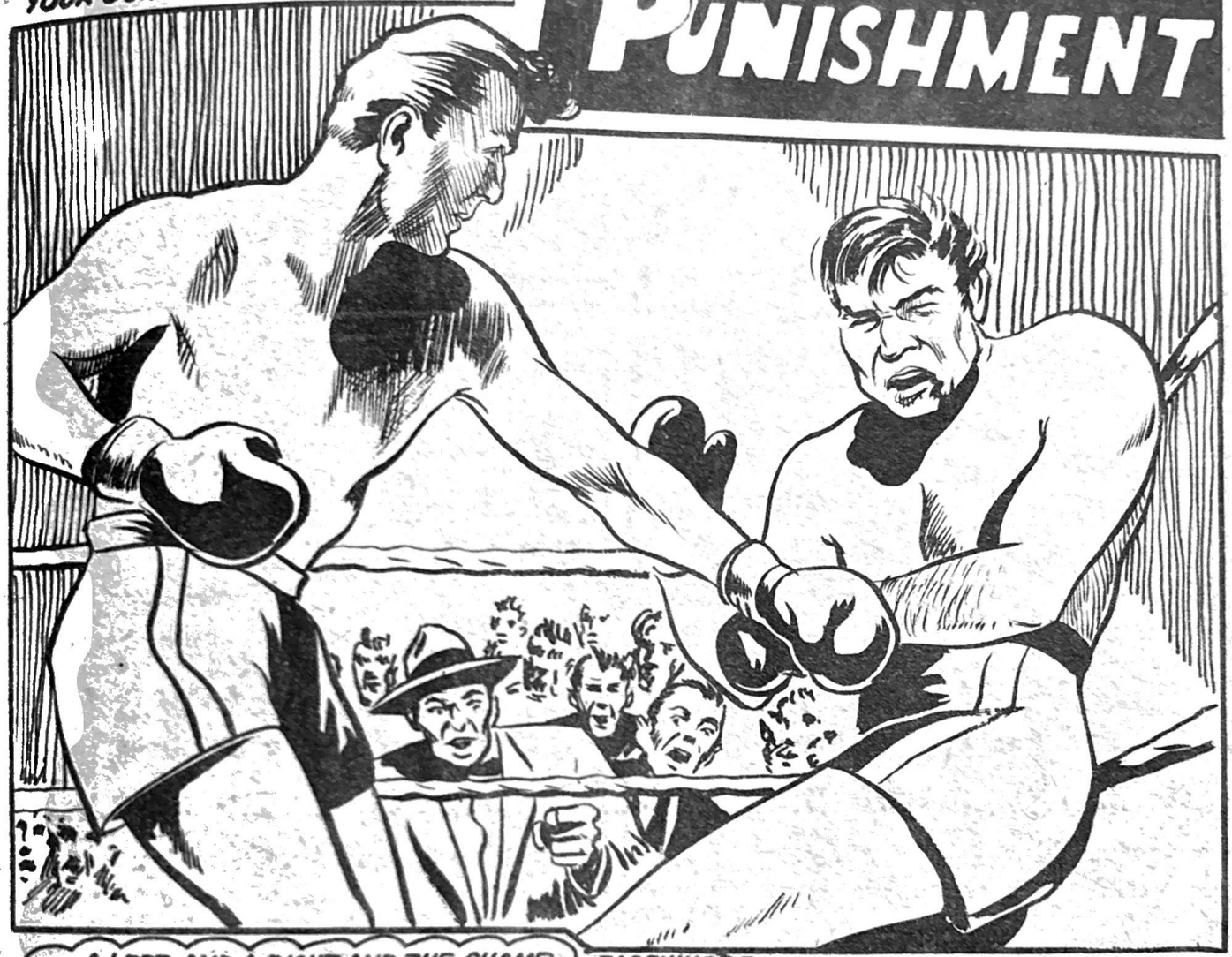
THE STABLES BEHIND THE ARENA..
HAH! WHEN THAT GUY RIDES DYNAMITE HERE, IT'LL BE JUST TOO BAD. TEACH HIM TO CROSS BIG BILL BOWERS----
..I SURE WOULDN'T LIKE TO BE IN HIS PANTS WHEN THIS NAG STARTS A-KICKIN'.... RECKON HE'S GONNA BE FOR THE HIGHJUMP, HAW! HAW! HAW
DYNAMITE IS LED OUT....
HERE JOHNNY, HE'S ALL YOURS.
WATCH HIM, JOHNNY, HE'S A HEAP OF HORSE!
O.K. SPIKE!
DYNAMITE GOES TO TOWN....
RIDE HIM, COWBOY!!
STAY WITH HIM, JOHNNY!
BUT THE GIRTH SLIPS..

AND JOHNNY IS DOWN.....
HE'LL BE KILLED!!
HIS FOOT'S CAUGHT, HE CAN'T KICK FREE !!
BUT PATSY REMAINS CALM..
.... ONE GOOD SHOT COULD CUT THE CINCH. IT'S A CHANCE I'VE GOT TO TAKE!
...IT'S NOW OR NEVER.. KEEP STEADY HANDS!
WHAT A SHOT!
SHE CUT THE STRAP!
ZING!
THIS TIME I'VE GOT TO THANK YOU PATSY, BUT IF I'D CHECKED MY GEAR THAT ACCIDENT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED!
NOW WE'RE EVEN!
HEY JOHNNY!

AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU ALL IN ONE PIECE. BUT LOOK, I FOUND THIS IN DYNAMITE'S STALL, YOU KNOW WHO IT BELONGS TO?
IT'S BILL BOWERS' SCARF!
WELL I'LL BE...
QUITE!
BEARING THE EVIDENCE, JOHNNY CONFRONTS THE VILLAINOUS BOWERS..
THIS WAS FOUND IN DYNAMITE'S STALL. WHAT WERE YOU DOING THERE?
WHAT D'YA THINK? I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T CARE HOW I WON!
ZOK!
WHY.. YOU FILTHY SWINE.. I BET YOU KNOW HOW SPEARPOINT GOT LOOSE TOO!
SMACK!
POW!
O.K. SPIKE, THE LAW WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM NOW!
NICE GOIN', SON!
MAYBE A SPELL IN JAIL 'LL TEACH HIM TO KEEP HIS RODEO SPORT CLEAN!
I GUESS HE WASN'T A REAL WESTERNER, JOHNNY!
THE END

THE SQUARE RING – WHERE MAN PITS SKILL AND FURY AGAINST MAN. – AND WHERE INTRIGUE AND CROOKEDNESS SOMETIMES MAKES THE BEST MAN LOSE. LEFTY O'RORKE, NEAR CHAMP, FINDS THEREARE MORE WAYS TO WIN A TITLE THAN BY YOUR OWN TWO FISTS IN..

THE PIT OF PUNISHMENT



.... A LEFT AND A RIGHT AND THE CHAMP GOES DOWN. IT'S O'RORKES FIGHT ALL THE WAY FOLKS. EIGHT-NINE – OHHH— THERE GOES THE BELL- MULLIGAN'S BEEN SAVED!

O'RORKE'LL MURDER THAT GUY IN THE NEXT ROUND!

ELSEWHERE..

NO GOOD IGGY, I'M DONE IN!

DON'T BE A SAP, CHAMP. WHEN HE GOES TO SHAKE HANDS FOR THIS LAST ROUND, SOCK HIM WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT!

WHILE IN THE OTHER CORNER....
CAREFUL NOW, LEFTY. YOU'VE GOT HIM COOKED!
DON'T COUNT MY CHICKENS JOE, HE STILL PACKS A PUNCH!
CLANG!
THE LAST ROUND - AND THE MODERN GLADIATORS MEET IN THE CENTRE OF THE PIT OF PUNISHMENT
SHAKE CHAMP!
BUT!
SUCKER!
WHAM!
DAZED, O'RORKE RECEIVES A TERRIFIC MAULING..
DIRTY!
BOO! FOUL!
LATER IN MULLIGAN'S DRESSING ROOM..
.... WINNER AND STILL CHAMPION!
BOO!
CHUCK 'IM OUT!
BOY - WHAT A LUCKY TRAMP YOU ARE. IF THAT REF HAD'NT BEEN BLIND HE'DA CHUCKED YOU OUT OF THE RING. ONE THING'S SURE, YOU AIN'T FIGHTING LEFTY O'RORKE NO MORE HE'D KILL YOU NEXT TIME!
KILL ME NUTTIN'. DIDN'T I BLAST HIM....

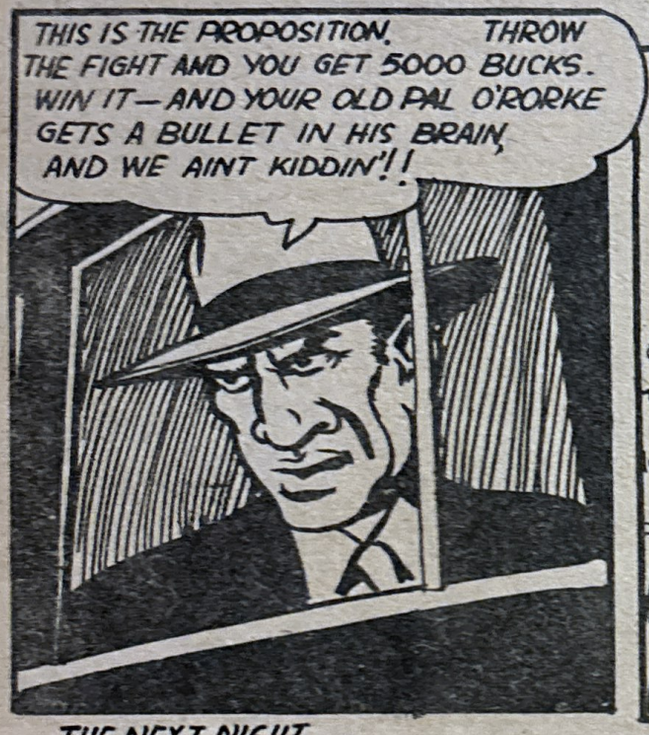
AND IN THE CHALLENGER'S ROOM.
THAT WAS SURE A LOUSY DEAL LEFTY. TO THINK A CREDIT TO THE GAME LIKE YOU SHOULD BE ROBBED LIKE THAT!
NEVER MIND O'RORKE, OUR NEWSPAPER COLUMNS WILL FORCE A RETURN. I KNOW YOU'LL WIN THEN.
GUESS I SHOULD HAVE DUCKED!
THANKS FELLOWS, BUT I HOPE THE RETURN IS SOON. I'M GETTIN' KINDA OLD FOR THE FIGHT GAME. I CAN'T WAIT ANOTHER THREE YEARS FOR A TITLE SHOT!
NEXT DAY
EXTRA! BIG FIGHT SENSATION!!
IN IGGY FURGUSON'S OFFICE..
WHAT'S THIS?
DAILY BULL
O'RORKE KAYOED BY FOUL
FANS DEMAND RETURN
I MURDERED HIM ONCE. I'LL SLAY HIM NEXT TIME!!
DON'T BE A CHUMP. O'RORKE'S GETTING NO RETURN. HE'LL BEAT THE DAYLIGHTS OUT'A YOU... UNLESS.
SOMEWHERE ELSE..
.....AND BELIEVE ME FOLKS, IF I FIGHT MULLIGAN AGAIN I PROMISE THAT I'LL WIN!

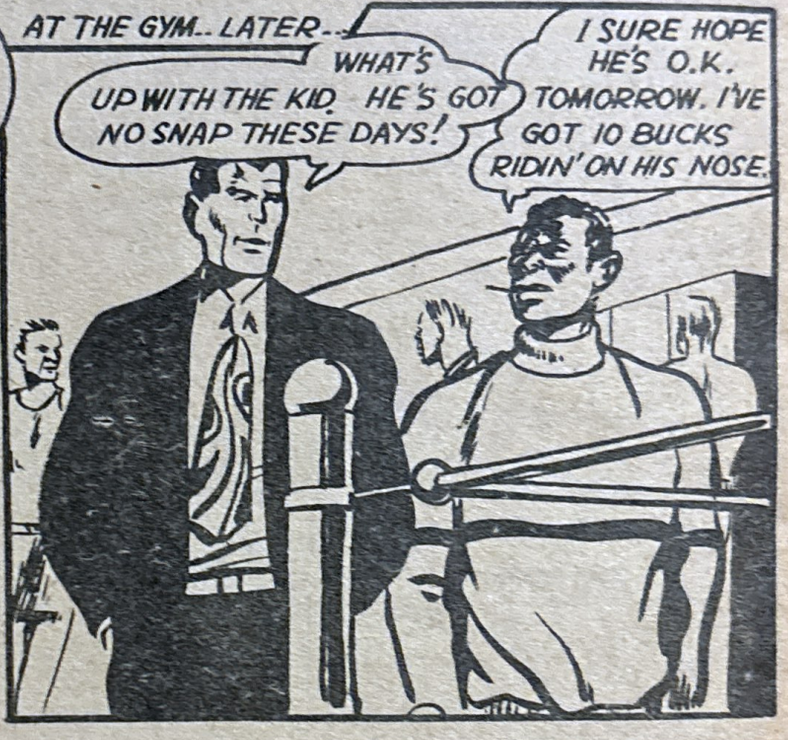
WHEN OUT OF THE BLUE....
O'RORKE? I JUST CALLED TO SAY YOU CAN HAVE THAT RETURN WHEN YOU WANT IT--SURE-HONEST, IGGY FERGUSON THAT'S ME!
NOW LISTEN BOYS, THIS IS THE SET UP...
THE CONTRACTS ARE SIGNED...
HOLD IT! WHY DON'T THEY LET ME FINISH HIM OFF!
TRAINING BEGINS..
WIF!
STAND BY LEM, HERE HE COMES...
ACTION!
HOLD THAT YOU!!
WHAM!

BUT EVEN LEFTY IS NO MATCH FOR A MONKEY WRENCH..
HE WON'T FIGHT ANYMORE.. NOT WITH THOSE HANDS!
AND LATER..
WHAT'S THE VERDICT DOC?
'HATE TO SAY THIS O'RORKE, BUT YOUR FIGHTING DAYS ARE OVER....
AND SO, UNABLE TO LEAVE THE LURE OF THE RING, LEFTY BECOMES A MANAGER....
SO I'VE SIGNED YOU TO FIGHT LEN LEWENDON – BUT WATCH HIS RIGHT, IT'S DYNAMITE!
..BUT HIS FIGHTERS..
..ARE NO WORLD BEATERS..
LEWENDON THE WINNAH!!
ANOTHER MUG..
UNTIL ONE NIGHT.....
..SEEN MORELLI – HE'S ON IN TWO MINUTES AND HE AIN'T TURNED UP. WHAT A HEAVYWEIGHT!
NO, I AIN'T SEEN HIM.
JUST THEN..
IS THIS THE GUY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
WHAT THE??

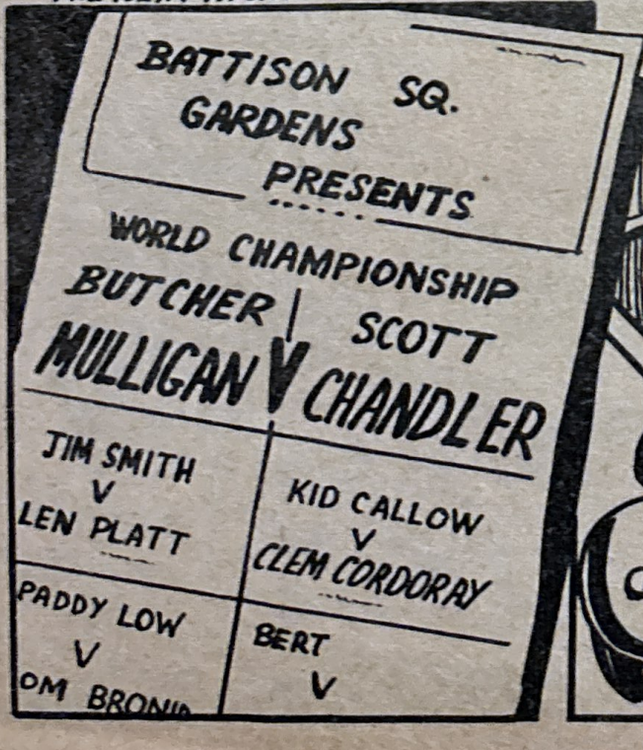
I'M SORRY MR O'RORKE, BUT THIS MORELLI CHAP BUMPED INTO ME OUTSIDE. WE HAD A BIT OF A ROW AND I'M AFRAID I HAD TO HIT HIM— OH, BY THE WAY MY NAME IS SCOTT CHANDLER!
YOU HOODLUM, NOW I'VE GOT TO CANCEL THE FIGHT!
LET ME FIGHT FOR YOU O'RORKE, I WAS COLLEGE CHAMP FOR TWO YEARS.
ARE YOU CRAZY?— SAY— MAYBE YOU COULD AT THAT— YOU'VE GOT THE BUILD!
SCOTT CHANDLER PREPARES...
...THE COYTOWN KILLER. AND ON MY RIGHT AT 192 POUNDS, SCOTT CHANDLER!!
CLANG!
ANOTHER MUG.
KILLER LANDS AGAIN WITH A LEFT TO THE JAW. NO FOLKS. I DON'T THINK THIS NEW BOY IS GOING TO BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM TO THE KILLER!

SUDDENLY.....
ZONK!
WHAT A PUNCH KID - YOU'RE A NATURAL. I'M GONNA MAKE A CHAMP OF YOU, THEN YOU CAN BEAT THE EARS OFF BUTCHER MULLIGAN LIKE I SHOULD'VE DONE!
CHANDLER K.O.'S SULLIVAN IN FOUR.
R.K SAUNDERS
SCOTT CHANDLER A THREAT TO CHAMP
CHANDLER WINS FINAL ELIMINATIO
UNTIL .....
I'LL MURDER HIM!
THIS IS GONNA BE TOUGH..
THIS IS IT!
I WONT LET YOU DOWN, BESIDES- BESIDES I WANT THE 5000 BUCKS.
TRAINING COMMENCES..

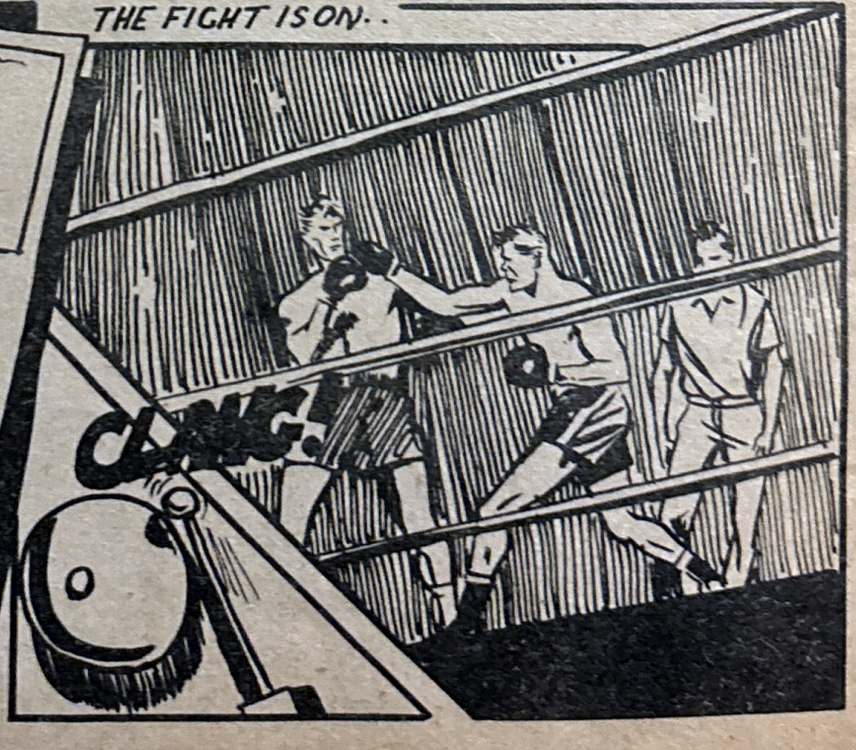

THIS IS THE PROPOSITION. THROW THE FIGHT AND YOU GET 5000 BUCKS. WIN IT—AND YOUR OLD PAL O'RORKE GETS A BULLET IN HIS BRAIN, AND WE AINT KIDDIN'!!


AT THE GYM.. LATER...
WHAT'S UP WITH THE KID. HE'S GOT NO SNAP THESE DAYS!
I SURE HOPE HE'S O.K. TOMORROW. I'VE GOT 10 BUCKS RIDIN' ON HIS NOSE.

THE NEXT NIGHT....



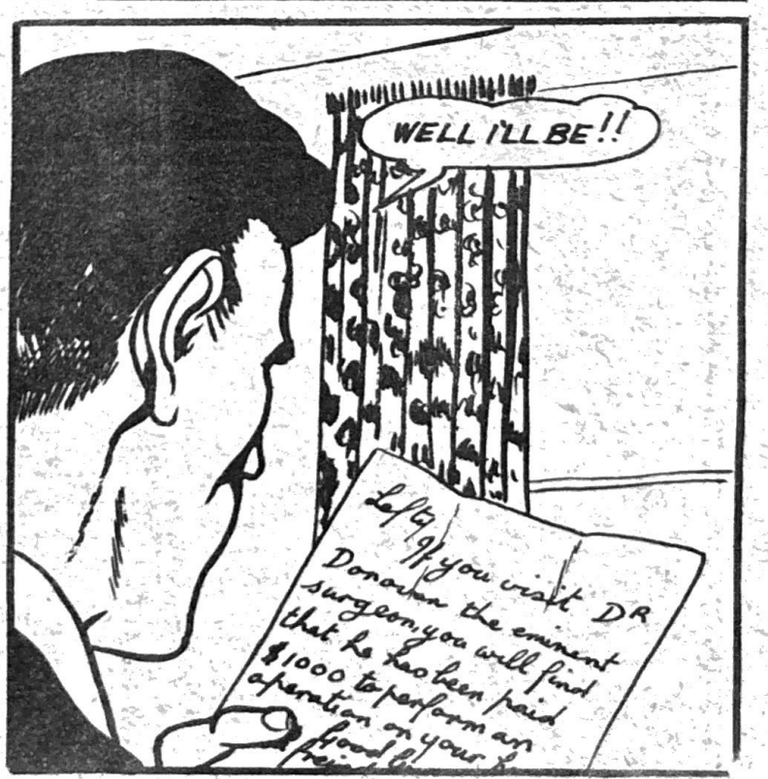
THE FIGHT IS ON..



AND AFTER 15 GRUELLING ROUNDS..

SCOTT'S DRESSING ROOM..

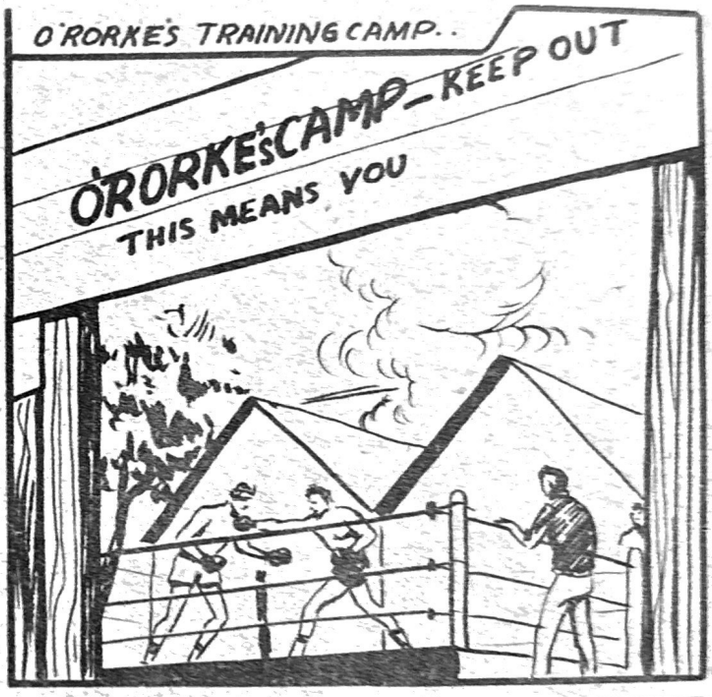
THREE WEEKS LATER AT ORORKE'S APARTMENT..


WELL I'LL BE!!
Lefty If you visit DR Donohan the eminent surgeon, you will find that he has been paid $1000 to perform an operation on your

CAN YOU DO IT, DOC'?
I THINK I CAN, O'RORKE. IT WOULD BE A PRIVILEGE TO TRY ANYWAY, I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOUR RING SKILL!

AFTER THE OPERATION....
I DON'T KNOW, O'RORKE. A YOUNG MAN CAME TO ME, MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS AND LEFT THE MONEY.
FEELS FINE, BUT CAN'T YOU TELL ME WHO PAID?
REFUSED TO GIVE HIS NAME!

DAILY ECO
FIGHT SENSATIO
O'RORKE COMES BACK
TO FIGHT FOR HEAVIES TITLE
ATOM BOMB


O'RORKE'S TRAINING CAMP..
O'RORKE'S CAMP—KEEP OUT
THIS MEANS YOU

A VISITOR, THROW HIM OUT!!
WHO LET HIM IN?

HE WAS WATCHING YOUR WORK OUT BOSS!
YOU CHANDLER— GET HIM OUTA HERE!

WAIT A MINUTE O'RORKE - THIS IS THE YOUNG MAN THAT PAID FOR YOUR OPERATION!
WHAT!!
SCOTT EXPLAINS....
SO YOU SEE LEFTY, I COULDN'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF THEM SHOOTING YOU, SO I PUT THE CASH THEY GAVE ME WITH MY PURSE MONEY AND WENT TO SEE DOC HERE!!
THANKS KID, BUT YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME. WE COULD HAVE GOT PROTECTION!
..NOW YOU CAN HELP ME, I NEED A REAL SPARRING PARTNER!
GREAT, LET'S GO!
WHAT A PAIR!
YOU TELL ME WHO'S BEST?
THE WEIGH IN..
197½ POUNDS!
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, COME OVER HERE!
I WANT YOU TO SLIP THIS INTO O'RORKE'S DRINK. THAT'LL KEEP HIM QUIET!
I GET YOU BOSS!

O'RORKE DRINKS..
..LEFTY.. WHAT'S UP?
.. AND THEN HE PASSED OUT. I'D BETTER GO IN THE RING IN HIS PLACE IF IT'S O.K. BY YOU!
SURE, SURE, WE BEAT YOU ONCE, WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!
I'LL MURDER YOU, YOU RAT!
AND SO..
CLANG!
BOP!
BUT THIS TIME SCOTT HAS NO FEAR HANGING OVER HIM..
WHAM!
I WON FOR YOU LEFTY— NOW YOU CAN HAVE FIRST CRACK AT THE TITLE. NO ONE DESERVED IT MORE!
NOT ME CHAMP, IN FUTURE YOU CAN DO THE FIGHTING FOR BOTH OF US!
THE END

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